

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 /136 R

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EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE
NEA/EGY - MR. STERNER
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

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R 182203Z MAR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USINT DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY SANAA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING MARCH 18,
1974:

QUOTE: MR. VEST: TO REPEAT OUR EARLIER STATEMENT TODAY.
AT THE REQUEST OF THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT, THE U.S. GOVERN-
MENT HAS AGREED TO ASSIST IN SWEEPING MINES IN THE WATERS
OF THE SUEZ CANAL. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO AGREED TO
PROVIDE TECHNICAL ADVICE AND TRAINING TO EGYPTIAN PERSONNEL
RESPONSIBLE FOR CLEARING UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE IN THE CANAL
AND ON ITS BANKS.

Q. CAN YOU ANNOUNCE OFFICIALLY THAT YOU HAVE BEEN NOTI-
FIED BY THE ARAB STATES THAT THE EMBARGO HAS BEEN UN-
CONDITIONALLY LIFTED?

A: WE HAVE NO OFFICIAL WORD HERE, AND I SUGGEST YOU KEEP IN
TOUCH WITH THE WHITE HOUSE FOR THE FINAL INFORMATION
AND COMMENTS ON THE EMBARGO.

Q: IS IT A MATTER OF FACT THAT THE BRITISH NAVY WILL
COOPERATE WITH THE UNITED STATES NAVY IN THE SUEZ CANAL
CLEARING?

A: I THINK ANYTHING THAT THE BRITISH DO, YOU HAD BEST
ASK THE BRITISH.

AND I DON'T HAVE DETAILS ON THE TECHNICAL WAY IN WHICH
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WORK MIGHT BE CARRIED ON.

Q: IS THIS WORK CONTINGENT UPON ANY CONGRESSIONAL
ACTION TO APPROVE THE USE OF MONEY?

A: LOOK -- ALL QUESTIONS -- I THINK WE SHOULD FACE
THIS: QUESTIONS INVOLVING THE SUEZ ACTIVITY, I'M GOING
TO HAVE TO LOOK INTO THAT. I DON'T HAVE ANY DETAILS

BEYOND THE BARE ANNOUNCEMENT ITSELF, AS OF TODAY.

Q: GIVEN THE IMMINENCE OF THE SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE FOR MOSCOW, DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY REACTION TO THE RATHER NEGATIVE APPRAISAL MADE BY PRAVDA YESTERDAY OF THE US ACTIVITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, PARTICULARLY THE SECRETARY'S?

A: NO, I DON'T THINK SO. DOBRYNIN IS BACK IN TOWN, AND I'M SURE THEY WILL TALK OVER ALL SUBJECTS THAT ARE OF COMMON CONCERN THESE DAYS LATER THIS WEEK. BUT I DON'T ANTICIPATE ANYTHING SPECIAL IN RELATION TO THIS PRAVDA STORY, WHICH, ON CLOSE INSPECTION, DIDN'T SEEM ALL THAT EXTRAORDINARY.

Q: WELL, DO YOU CONSIDER IT EXTRAORDINARY THAT THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY THE SECRETARY OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS AS HAVING PLAYED A POSITIVE ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS, IS NOW DEMEANING THE US PART IN THOSE NEGOTIATIONS?

A: I THINK YOU HAVE TO LOOK BENEATH WHAT ANYBODY SAYS ANYWHERE AT WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY'S GOING TO THE MIDDLE EAST APRIL 20?

A: WHILE THERE ARE NO FIRM PLANS FOR A VISIT TO THE MID EAST, IT REMAINS A POSSIBILITY THAT HE MIGHT DO SO SOMETIME AFTER THAT MEETING WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS APRIL 17 AND 18. KISSINGER

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